FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZAMI Awards 14 Scholarships

LESBIAN AND GAY SCHOLARS OF COLOR HONORED IN 12TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

ZAMI, Inc., an organization for lesbians of African descent based in Atlanta, Georgia is commemorating the 12th Anniversary of its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund in a two day long celebration scheduled for September 28-29, 2007.

14 scholars from across the country have been granted $1000 scholarships along with transportation and accommodations to Atlanta, for the scholarship celebratory weekend. These students are all "out" lesbians and gay men who are making significant contributions to their communities.

ZAMI established its Audre Lorde scholarship fund in 1995 and awarded the first two scholarships in 1997. Since that time, the fund has awarded over $100,000 in scholarship monies to lesbians and gay men of color.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund is named in honor of Audre Lorde (1934-1992), the acclaimed author and State Poet of New York who published nine volumes of poetry and five works of prose. She identified as a Black lesbian, warrior poet and is internationally regarded as a significant contributor to the struggle for women's liberation and lesbian and gay rights.

*** Awards and Recipients:**

Sheryl Burke Award: *June Berry*, The Natural Gourmet Institute for Health & Culinary Arts Chef Program, New York, NY

Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotton Williams Award: *Sophia Bowens*, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award: *Kalvin Leveille*, St. John's University, Queens, NY

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse-A Gay Negro Ensemble: *Charles Rice-Gonzalez*, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

Cherie Caldwell Award: *Crystal Jones*, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Wendy Belkin Award: *Brandee Stephens,* University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

David Gillespie Award: *Craig Washington*, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Sarah Crymes & Rhonda Freeman Award: *Amber Andersen*, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

Linda Bryant Award: *Teanna Medina*, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award funded by Rhesa M. Jenkins & Ama Saran *Naima Lowe*, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award funded by Germaine Curtin: *Ejeris Dixon*, New York University, NY, NY

Fourth Tuesday Award: *Melissa Gordon*, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

Angelina Huguely Award: *Pam Reed*, University of Illinois, Springfield, IL

Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award funded by Collette Strother, Laura Brooks, Ada Long & K.M. Griffin: *Mark Norris*, California State University, Los Angeles, CA

***Note:** Unless, otherwise noted, the 2007 awards are named after the person who funded the scholarship.

Annually, the Audre Lorde scholars are lauded in a celebratory weekend produced specifically to honor their achievements.

Friday, September 28, 2007

ZAMI Presents:

A Staged Reading of Jazz/Blues/Prayer Poems & Performance Stories

By *Sharon Bridgforth**

In Partnership with Agnes Scott College, Emory University Office of LGBT Life, The Master of Arts in Professional Writing Program and Gender and Women's Studies Interest Group at Kennesaw State University & Charis Books and More…

8:00 PM
Agnes Scott College
Alston Student Center
141 East College Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

*RedBone Press, Lambda Literary Award winning author of the bull-jean stories, Bridgforth is currently touring The love conjure/blues Text Installation (RedBone Press). A recipient of the Theatre Communications Group/National Endowment for the Arts Playwrights Award, Bridgforth is Anchor Artist for The Austin Project, produced by The Center for African and African American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, where she is also an Affiliate Faculty Member.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Catered Brunch by Chef Dale Butler with Soulful Vocals by 2003 Audre Lorde Scholar, *Dr. Clarice Thompson

11:00 AM- 2:00 PM

House of IntegriTEA
312 C. North Highland Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.577-3832
www.houseofintegriTEA.com

Annually the Audre Lorde scholars are lauded in a celebratory weekend produced specifically to honor their achievements.

Friday, September 29, 2007

ZAMI Presents:

A Staged Reading of Jazz/Blues/Plays Poems & Performance Stories

By Sharon Bridgforth*

In Partnership with Agnes Scott College, Emory University Office of LGBT Life, The Master of Arts in Professional Writing Program and Gender and Women's Studies lateral Group at Kennesaw State University & Classic Books and More...

8:00 PM
Agnes Scott College
Alston Student Center
141 East College Ave. Decatur, GA 30030

*RedBone Press, Lambda Literary Award winning author of the bull-jean stories. Bridgforth is currently touring The lor e conjure/blues Tent Installation (RedBone Press). A recipient of the Theatre Communications Group/National Endowment for the Arts Playwrights Award. Bridgforth is Anchor Artist for The Austin Project, produced by The Center for African and African American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, where she is also an Affiliate Faculty Member.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Catered Brunch by Chef Dale Ritter with Soulful Vocals by 2003 Audre Lorde Scholar, *Dr. Clarice Thompson

11:00 AM- 2:00 PM

House of Integrity/TBA
312 C. North Highland Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30307
404 577-3812
www.houseofintegrityTBA.com

$20.00 Requested Donation $10.00 for Students
Tixs sold in advance at Charis Books and More
1189 Euclid Ave, Atlanta
404 524-0304

*Clarice Laverne Thompson earned a Doctor of Arts Degree in Music History and Music Theory, (University of Mississippi). A long time musical theatre collaborator with Elmo Terry-Morgan, as a team they have created "Ophelia's Cotillion", AUDELCO Award winning "Song Of Sheba", "Hot Comb", an adaptation of "Crescent Tales", "Profiles and Shadows", "Heart To Heart", and a new project "Return Me To Love" (a Dorothy Dandridge story). Clarice is serving as music director for Rites and Reason Theatre and visiting lecturer for Africana Studies, Brown University.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Scholarship Awards Program

Celebrating the 2007 Audre Lorde Scholars
Hosted by Poet & Activist, Cara Page

8:00 PM

North Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Entertainment provided by Lillie Huddleston, Claire Thompson & ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble

Lillie Huddleston has been a professional performer for over 15 years, discovering the jazz genre as a vocalist while an undergraduate music education major at Mississippi University for Women. Lillie continued her musical studies at Georgia State University earning a Master of Music degree with a concentration in music education. She has been a featured vocalist at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, the Stone Mountain Jazz Jamboree, Callenwolde Jazz on the Lawn, and the Jocada Museum of Jazz History. http://cdbaby.com/cd/lillieh

ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble, is Atlanta's only black gay male performance poets collective. They commit their time and energy to the telling of their individual and collective experiences, performing the work they pen and the work of others who support their survival. ADODI Muse members are Duncan E. Teague, Malik M.L. Williams, and Anthony Antoine. They present an in-your-face collection of performance poetry, singing, rapping, and more that is fierce, funny, confrontational, dangerous and entertaining. http://www.adodimuse.com

Program is free and open to the public.

***Note:** During the Saturday night program, ZAMI will salute the Feminist Women's Health Center, Mia Mingus, Mandy Carter and Rev. Maressa Pendermon for their dedication and steadfast activism.

Sponsors:
Delta Airlines, Holiday Inn Select Decatur, IntegriTEA House, Time to Dine, Keisha Cunningham, Tonia Poteat, Phillip Rush, Sheryl Burke, Cherie Caldwell, Dale Butler, TH Design

ZAMI, Inc. Board of Directors:
Miya Binta, Beryl Jackson, Aisha Dubose, Mary Anne Adams, Edith Biggers, Frances Wood, Latania McKenzie, Lynn Duhart, Arlene Edwards, Simone Bell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZAMI Awards 14 Scholarships

LESBIAN AND GAY SCHOLARS OF COLOR HONORED IN 12TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

ZAMI, Inc., an organization for lesbians of African descent based in Atlanta, Georgia is commemorating the 12th Anniversary of its Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund in a two day long celebration scheduled for September 28-29, 2007.

14 scholars from across the country have been granted $1000 scholarships along with transportation and accommodations to Atlanta, for the scholarship celebratory weekend. These students are all "out" lesbians and gay men who are making significant contributions to their communities.

ZAMI established its Audre Lorde scholarship fund in 1995 and awarded the first two scholarships in 1997. Since that time, the fund has awarded over $100,000 in scholarship monies to lesbians and gay men of color.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund is named in honor of Audre Lorde (1934-1992), the acclaimed author and State Poet of New York who published nine volumes of poetry and five works of prose. She identified as a Black lesbian, warrior poet and is internationally regarded as a significant contributor to the struggle for women's liberation and lesbian and gay rights.

*** Awards and Recipients:**

Sheryl Burke Award: *June Berry*, The Natural Gourmet Institute for Health & Culinary Arts Chef Program, New York, NY

Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotton Williams Award: *Sophia Bowens*, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award: *Kalvin Leveille*, St. John's University, Queens, NY

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse-A Gay Negro Ensemble: *Charles Rice-Gonzalez*, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

Cherie Caldwell Award: *Crystal Jones*, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Wendy Belkin Award: *Brandee Stephens,* University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

David Gillespie Award: *Craig Washington*, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Sarah Crymes & Rhonda Freeman Award: *Amber Andersen*, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

Linda Bryant Award: *Teanna Medina*, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award funded by Rhesa M. Jenkins & Ama Saran *Naima Lowe*, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award funded by Germaine Curtin: *Ejeris Dixon*, New York University, NY, NY

Fourth Tuesday Award: *Melissa Gordon*, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

Angelina Huguely Award: *Pam Reed*, University of Illinois, Springfield, IL

Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award funded by Collette Strother, Laura Brooks, Ada Long & K.M. Griffin: *Mark Norris*, California State University, Los Angeles, CA

***Note:** Unless, otherwise noted, the 2007 awards are named after the person who funded the scholarship.

Annually, the Audre Lorde scholars are lauded in a celebratory weekend produced specifically to honor their achievements.

Friday, September 28, 2007

ZAMI Presents:

A Staged Reading of Jazz/Blues/Prayer Poems & Performance Stories

By *Sharon Bridgforth**

In Partnership with Agnes Scott College, Emory University Office of LGBT Life, The Master of Arts in Professional Writing Program and Gender and Women's Studies Interest Group at Kennesaw State University & Charis Books and More…

8:00 PM
Agnes Scott College
Alston Student Center
141 East College Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

*RedBone Press, Lambda Literary Award winning author of the bull-jean stories, Bridgforth is currently touring The love conjure/blues Text Installation (RedBone Press). A recipient of the Theatre Communications Group/National Endowment for the Arts Playwrights Award, Bridgforth is Anchor Artist for The Austin Project, produced by The Center for African and African American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, where she is also an Affiliate Faculty Member.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Catered Brunch by Chef Dale Butler with Soulful Vocals by 2003 Audre Lorde Scholar, *Dr. Clarice Thompson

11:00 AM- 2:00 PM

House of IntegriTEA
312 C. North Highland Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30307
404 577-3832
www.houseofintegriTEA.com

$20.00 Requested Donation $10.00 for Students
Tixs sold in advance at Charis Books and More
1189 Euclid Ave, Atlanta
404 524-0304

*Clarice Laverne Thompson earned a Doctor of Arts Degree in Music History and Music Theory, (University of Mississippi). A long time musical theatre collaborator with Elmo Terry-Morgan, as a team they have created "Ophelia's Cotillion", AUDELCO Award winning "Song Of Sheba", "Hot Comb", an adaptation of "Crescent Tales", "Profiles and Shadows", "Heart To Heart", and a new project "Return Me To Love" (a Dorothy Dandridge story). Clarice is serving as music director for Rites and Reason Theatre and visiting lecturer for Africana Studies, Brown University.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Scholarship Awards Program

Celebrating the 2007 Audre Lorde Scholars
Hosted by Poet & Activist, Cara Page

8:00 PM

North Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Entertainment provided by Lillie Huddleston, Claire Thompson & ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble

Lillie Huddleston has been a professional performer for over 15 years, discovering the jazz genre as a vocalist while an undergraduate music education major at Mississippi University for Women. Lillie continued her musical studies at Georgia State University earning a Master of Music degree with a concentration in music education. She has been a featured vocalist at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, the Stone Mountain Jazz Jamboree, Callenwolde Jazz on the Lawn, and the Jocada Museum of Jazz History. http://cdbaby.com/cd/lillieh

ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble, is Atlanta's only black gay male performance poets collective. They commit their time and energy to the telling of their individual and collective experiences, performing the work they pen and the work of others who support their survival. ADODI Muse members are Duncan E. Teague, Malik M.L. Williams, and Anthony Antoine. They present an in-your-face collection of performance poetry, singing, rapping, and more that is fierce, funny, confrontational, dangerous and entertaining. http://www.adodimuse.com

Program is free and open to the public.

***Note:** During the Saturday night program, ZAMI will salute the Feminist Women's Health Center, Mia Mingus, Mandy Carter and Rev. Maressa Pendermon for their dedication and steadfast activism.

Sponsors:
Delta Airlines, Holiday Inn Select Decatur, IntegriTEA House, Time to Dine, Keisha Cunningham, Tonia Poteat, Phillip Rush, Sheryl Burke, Cherie Caldwell, Dale Butler, TH Design

ZAMI, Inc. Board of Directors:
Miya Binta, Beryl Jackson, Aisha Dubose, Mary Anne Adams, Edith Biggers, Frances Wood, Latania McKenzie, Lynn Duhart, Arlene Edwards, Simone Bell

*Note: During the Saturday night program, ZAMI will salute the Feminist Women's Health Center, Mia Mingus, Mandy Carter and Rev. Marsessa Pendarvis for their dedication and steadfast activism.

Sponsors:
Delia Aldinos, Holiday Inn Select Decatur, IntegriTEA House, Time to Dine, Kelsie Cunningham, Tonia Poteat, Phillip Rush, Sheryl Burke, Cherie Caldwell, Dale Bunte, TH Design

ZAMI, Inc. Board of Directors:
Miya Binns, Beryl Jackson, Alisia Dubose, Mary Anne Adams, Edith Biggers, Frances Wood, Latania McKenzie, Lynn Dahan, Arlene Edwards, Simone Bell

Saturday, September 28 7:30 pm
ZAMI honors the 2002 Audre Lorde Scholarship Recipients in a celebratory program with entertainment provided by many of Atlanta's top lesbian and gay performers.
This program will be held at Oakhurst Baptist Church located at 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur, GA (Across from the East Lake Train Station on the College Ave side)

This Program is free and open to the public.

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of African descent through providing scholarship funds, leadership development, support/ discussion groups, social activities, outreach and education.

-- 30 --

According to ZAMI's Chairperson, Beryl Jackson, " From the fund's inception, we were aware of the global need for scholarships to assist out black lesbians in their educational pursuits. And more significantly, we were aware that there was no national entity providing these types of scholarships to this specific population." In 2002, ZAMI decided that it would become the change agent that the community has been seeking and began soliciting applications from out black lesbians who live in all 50 states.

In 2002, ZAMI is also recognizing a gay male scholar of African descent with The Tony Daniels Community Ally Award, which is awarded to a male who works to build bridges between communities. This scholarship is named in honor of Anthony C. Daniels (1965-1998), one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society. A long-time AIDS survivor, he was a vocal and passionate advocate for the rights and freedom of people living with HIV, poor people, women, and people of color across a broad spectrum.

The awards and recipients are as follows:

The Mary Anne Adams Award: Melissa Gordon, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee
The Kelley D. Alexander Award: Simone Bell, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia
The Edith Biggers Award: Jonathan Ann Jones, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas
The Sheryl Burke Award: Leslie Johnson, Stanford University, Stanford, California and Abigail Sewell, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
The Cherie Caldwell Award: Tequilia Washington, San Jose University, San Jose, California
The Ruth Ellis Award: Alicia Skillman, Oakland University, Detroit, Michigan
The Joan Garner Award: Melissa Crosby, Olivet College, Olivet, Michigan
The Sha' Mendon Award: Beatrice Sullivan, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
The Sherry Turner Award: Donna C. Owens, Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
The Tony Daniels Ally Award: Charles Stephens, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Annually, ZAMI lauds the recipients in a celebratory weekend specifically designed to honor their achievements.

Saturday, September 28 11-2 pm
ZAMI hosts a brunch in Adele's Garden to thank our supporters featuring performances by Violinist and Singer, LaTonya Peoples and the 2002 Audre Lorde Scholarship Recipients.
Tickets are $20.00. Please call for additional information.